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SIPDIS

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TAGS: PREL PINS PGOV PHUM TU IZ
SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY, JULY 28, 2004

THIS CABLE IS FROM AMCONSUL ADANA.

¶1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for July 28, 2004. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

¶2. Ulkede Ozgur Gundem, Vakit: 18 cattle were killed and many others were wounded in a mine explosion in Gunyuzlu village of Semdinli, Hakkari province, on July ¶26. The cattle owner, Abdurrahman Tasli, appealed to the Hakkari Human Rights Association (HRA) for assistance in clearing mines and in seeking compensation for his losses.

¶3. Yeni Safak, Vakit: PKK/Kongra Gel militants activated a remote controlled mine they had planted on the Yuksekova-Semdinli highway when an armored personnel carrier (APC) passed by. One soldier was wounded in the incident.

¶4. Radikal: In their investigation of the July 26 explosion at the Hakkari Security Directorate, police started collecting videotapes recorded at wedding ceremonies that took place the night the explosion occurred. The police suspect that terrorists intermingled with people attending wedding ceremonies at the houses close to the Security Directorate. A bridegroom, Vahit Ilhan, whose house was very close to the Security Directorate, was detained for nine hours after the explosion, but was later released.

¶5. Ulkede Ozgur Gundem: A report entitled "13-17 June Diyarbakir Report" and prepared by the Initiative for a Turkey Without Mines stated that 21 persons lost their lives and 43 others were wounded due to mine explosions in the Southeast in the past six months.

¶6. Radikal: The Kurdish internet site Newroz claimed that US forces in Iraq raided the PKK-affiliated Kurdistan Democratic Solution Party (PCDK) in Kirkuk, Iraq. According to Kirkuk Security Director Aqid Serhat Kadir, US troops raided PCDK offices after a group of armed PCDK members opened fire on the US troops on patrol. The US officials at the American Embassy in Ankara did not deny the incident, but said that the Embassy would make an announcement after they obtained adequate information.

¶7. Yeni Safak: Based on a tip, Diyarbakir police and National Intelligence Organization members seized 11 kilos of heroin and 68,000 roots of hemp in Beypinar and Kayadere villages of Silvan, Diyarbakir province. Three persons involved in the matter were arrested.

¶8. Turkiye, Yeni Safak, Tercuman, Evrensel, Cumhuriyet: The Police from the Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crimes Department of the Van Security Directorate seized 81.67 kilos of heroin destined for points outside the country in secret compartments of a truck they inspected in Gevas, Van province. Two persons were arrested and two others having connections with drugs are wanted by police.

¶9. Yeni Safak, Vakit: Foot and mouth disease was diagnosed in cattle and sheep in Ayvali village of Darende, Malatya province. The Malatya Provincial Director of Agriculture, Nedim Sahinligil, said foot and mouth disease was diagnosed in two villagers who had eaten meat with the disease, as well, and warned the villagers that they should not eat meat that has not been inspected by veterinary authorities. Sahinligil added that teams from his office started vaccinating cattle and sheep in the village.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS

¶10. Hurriyet (Cukurova Supplement): People have been showing great interest in the International Fairs organized in Gaziantep in the textile, food, and shoe sectors. The Gaziantep President of the Chamber of Industry (GSO), Nejat Kocer, said GSO would open the

GAP 2004 Food, Food Technologies and Packing Fair between September 23-26; the Moteks and Gatemak 4th Fashion, Textile and Ready Wear Machinery Fair on September 30; and the GAP Shoe, Leather Works and Side Industries Fair between January 15-18, 2005.

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